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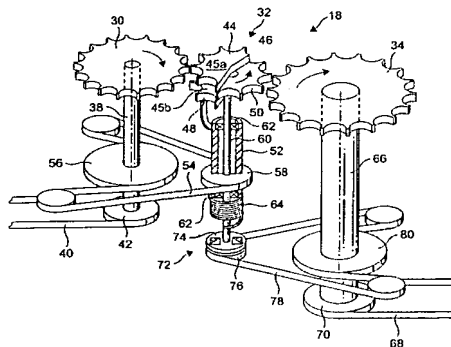
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ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: **STAR WHEEL**



(57) **Abstract:** A conveyor system (10) comprises a star wheel (32) for receiving articles (14) from a first conveyor (12) and dis-  
patching the articles to a second conveyor. The star wheel comprises first and second segments (44, 46) each having a perimeter  
adapted to receive articles to be conveyed. A first shaft (52) rotates the first segment (44) about an axis, and a second shaft (60) rotates  
the second segment (46) about the axis. In one embodiment, a torsion spring (64) resiliently connects the shafts (52, 60) together.  
The first shaft (52) is connected to a first drive for rotating the first and second shafts (52, 60) together about the axis.  
The second shaft (60) is connected to a clutch (72) arrangement for selectively connecting the second shaft (60) to a second drive for rotating  
the second shaft about the axis at a different speed from the first shaft, for example, in the event that the first drive is switched off.  
This enables the second segment (46) to continue to rotate during deceleration of the first segment and thereby to continue to convey  
articles to the second conveyor. The clutch arrangement (72) disconnects the second segment (46) from the second drive before it  
clashes with the first segment (44) or any articles (14) conveyed thereby, the torsion spring (64) automatically returning the second  
segment (46) to a predetermined position relative to the first segment (44) for subsequent rotation with the first segment when the  
first drive is switched on again.

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